

JS 44 CAND (Rev. 12/11)

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

Innovus Prime LLC

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Lyon County Nevada

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

12-660 JSC

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Law Offices of John W. Carpenter LLC

12 Metairie Ct.

Metairie LA 70001 415.577.0698

**DEFENDANTS**

Panasonic Corporation

Panasonic Corporation of North America

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Osaka Japan

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE:

IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

14

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only) 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2 U.S. Government Defendant  4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Citizen of This State	PTF	DEF	PTF	DEF
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country				

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<b>LABOR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability			<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise			<input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b>	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIW W (405(g))	
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee (Prisoner Petition)	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<b>IMMIGRATION</b>	

**V. ORIGIN**

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

 1 Original Proceeding  2 Removed from State Court  3 Remanded from Appellate Court  4 Reinstated or Reopened  5 Transferred from another district (specify)  6 Multidistrict Litigation**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
35 U.S.C. Sec 271 et seqBrief description of cause:  
Complaint for Patent Infringement**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:** CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION  
UNDER F.R.C.P. 23**DEMAND \$**CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  
**JURY DEMAND:**  Yes  No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S)**

(See instructions):

IF ANY

JUDGE James Ware

DOCKET NUMBER C 11-04223

**IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil L.R. 3-2)**

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

 SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLA ND  SAN JOSE  EUREKA

DATE

2/8/12

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

John W. Carpenter

1 JOHN W. CARPENTER (Cal. Bar No. 221708)  
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E-filing

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*Attorneys for Plaintiff,*  
*Innovus Prime LLC*

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**FILED**  
 FEB - 9 2012 (14) 155  
 RICHARD W. WIEKING  
 CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JSC

<p>11 <b>Innovus Prime LLC</b>    12 Plaintiff    13 v.    14 <b>Panasonic Corporation</b>    15 <b>Panasonic Corporation of North</b>    16 <b>America</b>    17 Defendants</p>	<p>18    19    20    21    22    23    24    25    26    27</p> <p>Civ Action No. 12 0660</p> <p><b>COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT</b>  <b>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</b></p>
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**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

20 Plaintiff, Innovus Prime LLC (“Plaintiff Innovus Prime”), hereby alleges for its Complaint  
 21 against Panasonic Corporation and Panasonic Corporation of North America, on personal  
 22 knowledge as to their own actions and on information and belief as to the actions of others, as  
 23 follows:

## **NATURE OF THE CASE**

This is an action arising under the Patent Laws and Statutes of the United States in which Plaintiff seeks to recover for patent infringement, and for any and all damages and costs flowing there from.

## **THE PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Innovus Prime is a Nevada limited liability company with a principal place of business at 900 Lafayette Street, Suite 708, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

2. On information and belief, Defendant Panasonic Corporation is a Japanese Corporation with its principal place of business at 1006 Oaza Kadoma, Kadoma City, Osaka 571-8501, Japan. On information and belief, Defendant Panasonic Corporation, is a nonresident of California who engages in business in this state, but does not maintain a regular place of business in this state or a designated agent for service of process in this state. On information and belief, Defendant Panasonic Corporation resides in this jurisdiction within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b). This proceeding arises, in part, out of business done in this state. Defendant Panasonic Corporation may be served with process in Japan pursuant to the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents, Article 1, November 15, 1965 T.I.A.S. No. 6638, 20 U.S.T. 361 (U.S. Treaty 1969). Defendant Panasonic Corporation regularly conducts and transacts business in California, throughout the United States, and within the Northern District of California, itself and/or through one or more subsidiaries, affiliates, business divisions, or business units.

3. On information and belief, Defendant Panasonic Corporation of North America is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business at One Panasonic Way, Panazip 71-1, Secaucus, New Jersey 07094. On information and belief, this Defendant is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Panasonic Corporation.

Defendant Panasonic Corporation of North America has appointed the Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, New Castle, DE, 19801, as its agent for service of process. Defendant Panasonic Corporation of North America regularly conducts and transacts business in California, throughout the United States, and within the Northern District of California, itself and/or through one or more subsidiaries, affiliates, business divisions, or business units. Panasonic Corporation and Panasonic Corporation of North America will be referred to herein individually and collectively as "Panasonic Defendants."

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. This is an action under the Patent Laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Codes, namely, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1 et seq. including 35 U.S.C. §§ 271 and 281, *et seq.*, because Panasonic Defendants committed acts of patent infringement within the United States and this judicial district. Accordingly, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

5.      Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and/or 1400 (b) because Panasonic Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this District and/or have committed acts within this District giving rise to this action. At a bare minimum, each of the Panasonic Defendants has delivered infringing products into the stream of commerce with the expectation that they will be purchased and used by consumers in California, including consumers in the Northern District of California.

6. Plaintiff Innovus Prime has a place of business in this District.

**PLAINTIFF'S PATENT**

7. On January 18, 1994, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 5,280,350 ("the '350 Patent"), entitled "Method and Apparatus for

Processing a Picture Signal to Increase the Number of Displayed Television Lines Using Motion Vector Compensated Values.” A copy of the ‘350 Patent is attached to this Complaint as Appendix A.

8. By reason of an assignment, Plaintiff Innovus Prime owns all rights, title and interest in the ‘350 Patent. The ‘350 Patent concerns *inter alia* embodiments for a method for processing a picture signal to obtain a picture signal having improved properties.

**COUNT I**  
**INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 5,280,350**

9. Plaintiff Innovus Prime repeats and incorporates by reference each of the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 8 above, and further alleges as follows:

10. On information and belief, without a license or permission from Plaintiff Innovus Prime, Panasonic Defendants infringed one or more claims of the ‘350 Patent in the State of California, in this judicial district, and elsewhere in the United States by having imported, made, used, sold or offered for sale claimed embodiments of the invention(s) that embody and/or practiced the invention(s) for processing a picture signal to obtain a picture signal having improved properties. On information and belief, Panasonic Defendants’ infringement of one or more claims of the ‘350 Patent occurred individually, or while acting in concert and/or through the same or series of transactions. Panasonic Defendants are thus liable for infringement of the ‘350 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271 literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents. Without limitation, several examples of Panasonic Defendants’ infringing products include the VIERA® family of television products, including models TC-L32DT30 (DT30 Series), TC-L37DT30 (DT30 Series), TC-L42D30 (D30 Series), TC-L42E30 (E Series), and TC-L42U30 (U30 Series), and projectors including models PT-AE3000U, PT-AE4000U, and PT-AE7000. Panasonic

1 Defendants' infringement of the '350 Patent has caused substantial damage to Plaintiff Innovus  
2 Prime.

3       11. To the extent that facts learned in discovery show that Panasonic Defendants'  
4 infringement of the '350 Patent had been willful, Plaintiff Innovus Prime reserves the right to  
5 request such a finding at time of trial.

7        12. As a result of these Panasonic Defendants' infringement of the '350 Patent,  
8 Plaintiff Innovus Prime has suffered monetary damages in an amount not yet determined.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 38, Plaintiff Innovus Prime requests a trial by jury on all issues allowable by law.

## **CERTIFICATION OF INTERESTED PARTIES OR PERSONS**

Pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-16, the undersigned certifies that the following listed person,  
association of persons, firms, partnerships, corporations (including parent corporations) or other  
entities (i) have a financial interest in the subject matter in controversy or in a party to the  
proceeding, or (ii) have a non-financial interest in that subject matter or in a party that could be  
substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding:

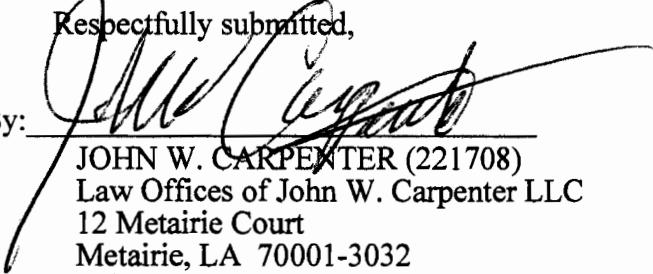
Innovus Prime LLC

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Innovus Prime prays for the following relief:

1 A. For decree and judgment against Panasonic Defendants and all in privity with Panasonic  
2 Defendants that the '350 Patent is valid and enforceable;  
3 B. For decree and judgment against Panasonic Defendants and all in privity with Panasonic  
4 Defendants that the '350 Patent had been infringed by Panasonic Defendants and that Panasonic  
5 Defendants are liable as patent infringers;  
6 C. For decree and judgment against Panasonic Defendants and all in privity with Panasonic  
7 Defendants requiring Panasonic Defendants to pay Plaintiff Innovus Prime its damages, costs,  
8 expenses, and prejudgment and post-judgment interest for Panasonic Defendants' infringement of  
9 the '350 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271 and 28 U.S.C. § 1961;  
10 D. For such other and further relief which should appear just and equitable to this Court.  
11

12  
13 Dated: February 8, 2012.

14 Respectfully submitted,  
15 By:   
16 JOHN W. CARPENTER (221708)  
17 Law Offices of John W. Carpenter LLC  
18 12 Metairie Court  
19 Metairie, LA 70001-3032  
20 Telephone: (415) 577-0698  
21 Facsimile: 1-866-410-6248  
22 Email: john@jwcarpenterlaw.com  
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28 *Attorneys for Plaintiff,  
Innovus Prime LLC*



US005280350A

**United States Patent [19]**

DeHaan et al.

[11] Patent Number: 5,280,350  
 [45] Date of Patent: Jan. 18, 1994

[54] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING A PICTURE SIGNAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DISPLAYED TELEVISION LINES USING MOTION VECTOR COMPENSATED VALUES

4,924,305 5/1990 Nakagawa et al. .... 358/140 X  
 4,989,090 1/1991 Campbell et al. .... 358/140  
 5,001,563 3/1991 Doyle et al. .... 358/140  
 5,021,870 6/1991 Moyoc et al. .... 358/140 X  
 5,036,393 7/1991 Samad et al. .... 358/140

[75] Inventors: Gerard DeHaan; Gerrit F. M. DePoortere, both of Eindhoven, Netherlands

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

0395271 10/1990 European Pat. Off.

[73] Assignee: U.S. Philips Corporation, New York, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: 751,290

[22] Filed: Aug. 29, 1991

## [30] Foreign Application Priority Data

Sep. 3, 1990 [EP] European Pat. Off. .... 90202330.8

[51] Int. Cl. .... H04N 7/01

[52] U.S. Cl. .... 358/140; 358/105;

358/167

[58] Field of Search .... 358/105, 140, 136, 166, 358/167, 11; H04N 7/01

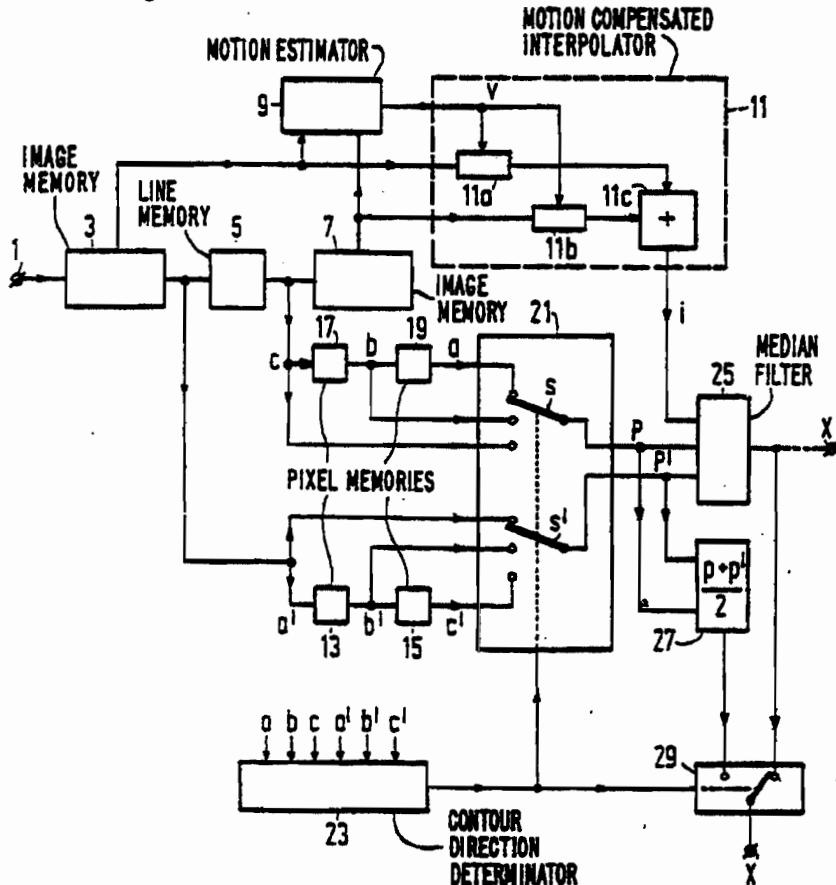
## [56] References Cited

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,684,985 8/1987 Nakagaki et al. .... 358/140

6 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

## MOTION COMPENSATED INTERPOLATOR



U.S. Patent

Jan. 18, 1994

Sheet 1 of 2

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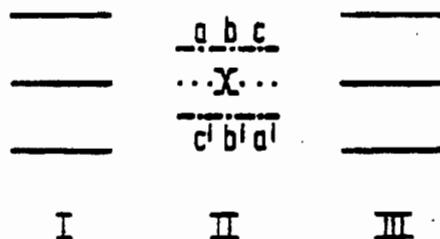
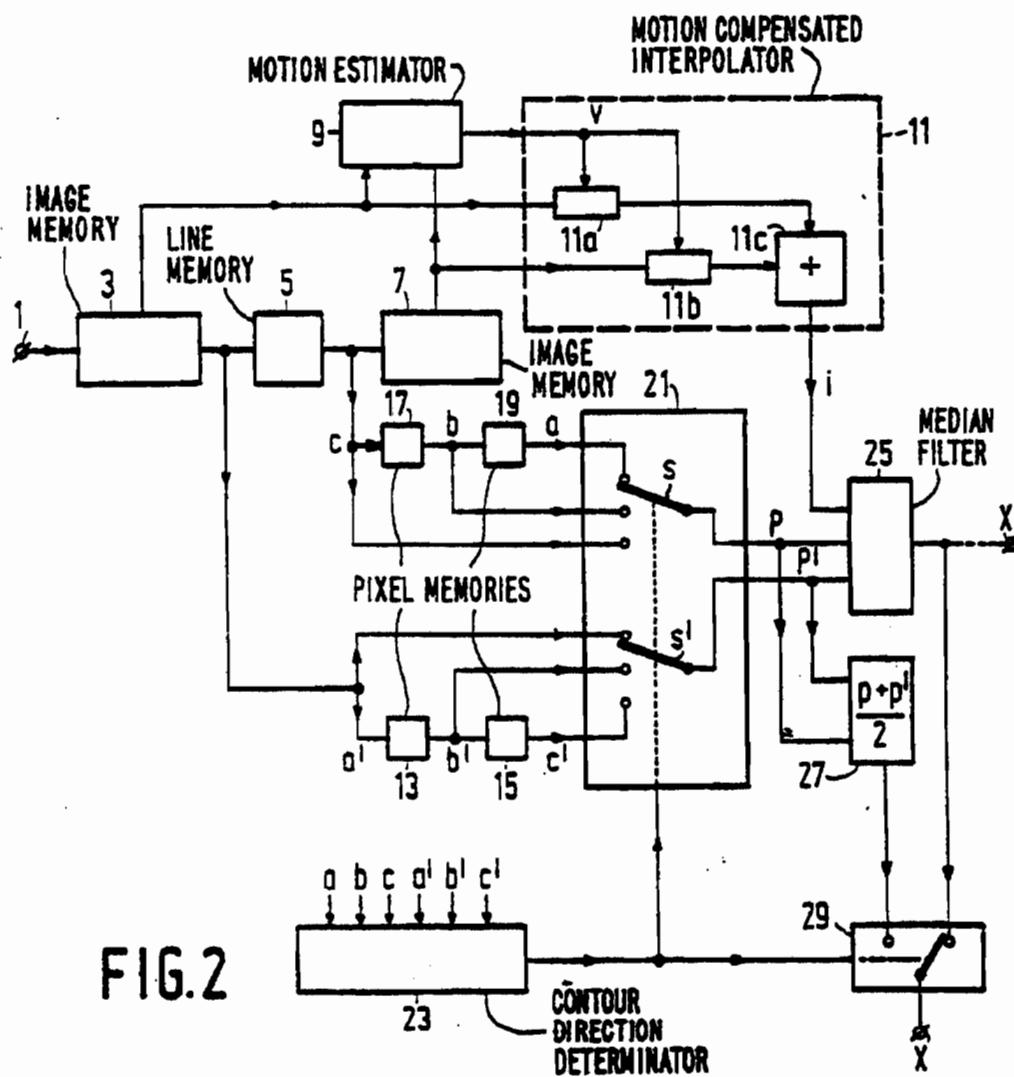


FIG.1



U.S. Patent

Jan. 18, 1994

Sheet 2 of 2

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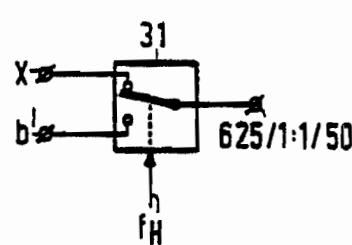


FIG.3A

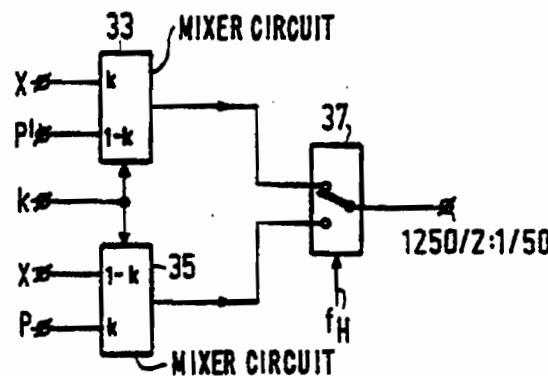


FIG.3B

625 / 2 : 1 / 50

625/1:1/50

1250/2:1/50

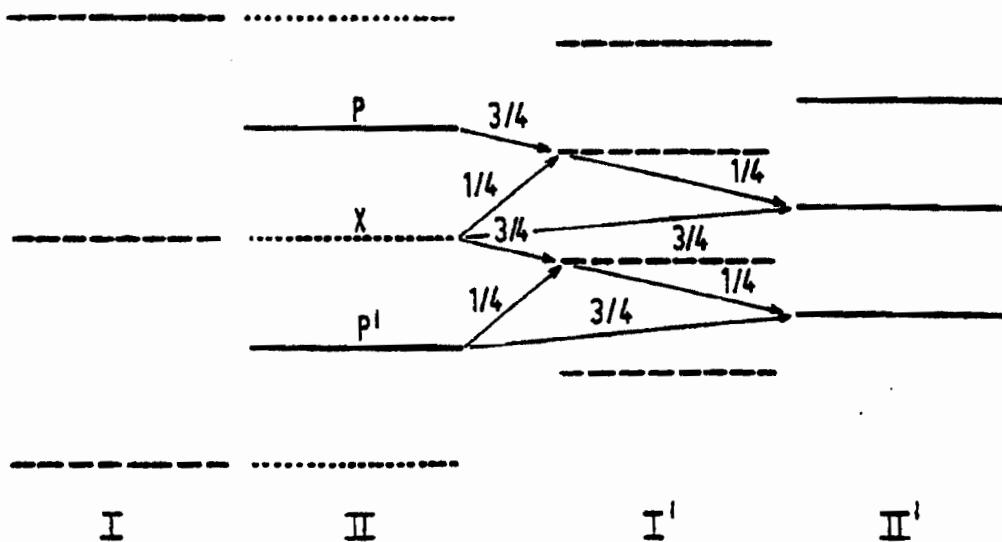


FIG.4

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**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING  
A PICTURE SIGNAL TO INCREASE THE  
NUMBER OF DISPLAYED TELEVISION LINES  
USING MOTION VECTOR COMPENSATED  
VALUES**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to a method and an apparatus for processing a picture signal to obtain a picture signal having improved properties, such as being noninterlaced or having a doubled line number, while still being interlaced.

EP-A 0 361 558 describes a method and an apparatus of this kind. Therein, a median is determined of signals from two adjacent lines in a given field of the picture signal and from one line of a field preceding the given field and lying vertically between the two adjacent lines in the given field. Preferably, a direction of a contour is determined also, to control the apparatus such that it supplies the median if the contour direction is substantially vertical, and that it supplies an average of the signals from the two adjacent lines otherwise. The supplied signal is multiplexed with the signals of the given field to obtain the non-interlaced picture signal or is processed with the signals of the given field to obtain a field of an interlaced picture signal having the doubled line number.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is an object of the present invention to provide a method and an apparatus which offer a better picture display quality than the prior art.

For this purpose, a first aspect of the invention provides a method of processing a line- and field-sequentially assembled picture signal, comprising the steps of:

performing a motion compensated interpolation to obtain an additional line between two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field; and

vertically filtering said additional line using at least one of said adjacent lines of said given field.

A second aspect of the invention provides an apparatus for processing a line- and field-sequentially assembled picture signal, comprising:

means for performing a motion compensated interpolation to obtain an additional line between two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field; and

means for vertically filtering said additional line using at least one of said adjacent lines of said given field.

These aspects of the invention are based on the recognition that the quality of the viewed image can be considerably improved by the use of motion compensated values rather than direct values from the interlaced line of the preceding field.

If a motion vector compensated interpolation is considered good enough, the vertical filtering operation can be dispensed with and the non-interlaced or doubled line number output signal can be obtained by a third aspect of the invention which provides an apparatus for processing a line- and field-sequentially picture signal, comprising:

means for performing a motion vector compensated interpolation to obtain additional lines between each time two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field; and

means for combining said additional lines and said adjacent lines to form a field having twice a number of lines of said given field.

These and other (more detailed) aspects of the invention will be described and elucidated with reference to the drawings and examples.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 schematically shows a number of lines from three successive fields of the picture signal;

FIG. 2 shows an apparatus according to the invention;

FIG. 3A and 3B show two postprocessors to be added to the apparatus of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 4 shows a representation of line number doubling and progressive scan conversion operations.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE  
PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE  
INVENTION**

FIG. 1 schematically shows a number of lines from three successive fields I, II and III. Between two existing lines (indicated by bars and dots) in field II, a new line (indicated by dots only) is to be interpolated. The present invention provides a new method and apparatus for obtaining the pixel value X on that new line. The method of the invention basically consists of two steps:

1. obtain by motion compensated interpolation an interpolated value from at least the neighboring field I.
2. perform a spatial filtering on the interpolated value to remove artifacts caused by motion estimation errors.

The present invention does not require any specific motion compensated interpolation method; in principle, any method will do. The preferred motion estimator to be used in the motion compensated interpolation has been described in the article "New Algorithm for Motion Estimation", presented by G. de Haan and H. Huijgen at the Third International Workshop on HDTV, Torino 1989.

As motion artifacts will be removed by step 2, it is not necessary to use a costly high quality motion compensated interpolation method to obtain high quality results. However, if the motion vector compensated interpolation would yield satisfactory results, the spatial filtering might be dispensed with completely. If artifacts introduced by the spatial filtering are worse than motion vector compensation artifacts, it might even be preferred to omit the spatial filtering. Having regard to the present state of the art in motion vector compensation, it is preferred to perform the spatial postfiltering after the motion vector compensated interpolation.

If the present invention is considered starting from the spatial filtering, the output quality of the spatial filtering is considerably improved by the prior motion compensated interpolation which already provides a reasonable first guess.

If we focus on the spatial postfiltering, a simple implementation would take the median of the pixel value b on the line above the line to be interpolated, the motion compensated interpolated value and the pixel value b' on the line below the line to be interpolated. As set out in U.S. Pat. No. 4,740,842, incorporated herein by reference, it is alternatively possible to determine a contour direction first, by evaluating the pixel value pairs (a, a'), (b, b') and (c, c'). The pair which gives the smallest difference between the two pixel values is called the pair (p, p'); this pair (p, p') is then used in the median

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filtering instead of the pair (b, b'). However, in a preferred embodiment which follows a teaching of EP-A 0 361 558, incorporated herein by reference, it is first determined whether the pair (p, p') which gives the smallest difference between the two pixel values, corresponds to the vertical direction, i.e. whether (p, p') = (b, b'). If this is true, then the median of the pixel values b, b' and the motion compensated interpolated value is determined, in the other case, the average of the pixel values p and p' is outputted as the interpolation result. In an elaboration of this embodiment, the median is also chosen when there is no clear preference for an oblique direction like e.g. the (a, a') or (c, c') direction, which inter alia may occur when the image shows little contrast or is noisy, or when the contour direction is substantially horizontal. Consequently, the preferred filtering direction might be different from a determined edge direction.

FIG. 2 shows an apparatus which performs this last mentioned, preferred implementation of the invention. An input I is connected to a series arrangement of a first image memory 3, a line memory 5 and a second image memory 7. Information from both image memories 3 and 7 is used in a motion estimator 9 to determine a motion vector v. The motion estimator 9 may be of any known kind. Preferably, estimator 9 is the estimator described in the article "New Algorithm for Motion Estimation" mentioned above. Another possibility would e.g. be a block motion estimator which compares fields II and I to determine which pixels in field I correspond to a given block in field II. It will be appreciated that if the motion is estimated for blocks, motion vectors are obtained which are not only valid for the dotted existing lines in field II, but also for the dotted interjacent lines to be interpolated. The motion vector v and picture information from the image memories 3 and/or 7 are used in a motion compensated interpolator 11 to obtain an interpolated value i.

The motion compensated interpolator 11 comprises a vector controlled delay 11a which receives the picture information from the first image memory 3, a vector controlled delay 11b which receives picture information from the second image memory 7, and an adder 11c receiving output signals of both vector controlled delays 11a and 11b and supplying the interpolated value i. The vector controlled delays 11a and 11b supply their output signals in dependence on the motion vector v.

It will be appreciated that it is more economic to shift information from one field only rather than to perform a motion compensated averaging operation on information from two fields. However, previously, motion compensated averaging was preferred because the averaging action contributed to a removal of motion artifacts. As according to the present invention the motion compensated interpolation is followed by a vertical filtering to remove motion artifacts, it is no longer necessary to use information from two fields in the motion compensated interpolation, so that the more economic motion compensated shift of information from one field only becomes possible without a loss of image display quality.

If a motion compensated shift from only one field is performed, the vector controlled delay 11a and the adder 11c can be dispensed with; in that case the motion compensated interpolator 11 consists of the vector controlled delay 11b.

An output of the first image memory 3 supplies the pixel value a' and is connected to a series arrangement

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of two pixel memories 13 and 15 whose outputs supply the pixel values b' and c', respectively. An output of the line memory 5 supplies the pixel value c and is connected to a series arrangement of two pixel memories 17 and 19 whose outputs supply the pixel values b and a, respectively. The pixel values a, b, c and a', b', c' are applied to two switches S and S' of a switching device 21 which is controlled by a contour direction determinator 23 which may be as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,740,842 or EP-A 0 361 558. Switch S supplies a pixel value p while switch S' supplies the pixel value p'.

The motion compensated interpolated value i and the pixel values p and p' are applied to a median filter 25 which may be as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,740,842. As shown by an interrupted line, in a simple embodiment of the invention the median filter 25 supplies the output value X. However, as discussed hereinbefore, in a preferred embodiment, the median of the pixel values i, p and p' is only supplied as the output value if the preferred filtering direction determined by the contour direction determinator 23 is the vertical direction. This implies that in this preferred embodiment instead of the pixel values p and p', the pixel values b and b' can be applied to the median filter 25, while there is no need for the pixel values b and b' to be applied to the switching device 21, so that the switches S and S' can become two-state switches instead of three-state switches.

As-described in a copending Application (PHN 13.436), the contour direction may instead of the pixels a', b', c' of a line lying in the same field and adjacent to the line on which the pixels a, b, c are positioned, use pixels from an interjacent line of the preceding field or from the interjacent line shown in FIG. 1 which is calculated by the motion compensated interpolator 11. As this interjacent line is closer to the line on which the pixels a, b, c are positioned, a more accurate contour direction determination is obtained. It will be evident from copending Application (PHN 13.436) that the contour direction determiner may determine more than 3 preferred filtering directions; in that case, switching device 21 and the number of pixel memories should be adapted accordingly.

To determine the average of p and p' which is to be supplied if the preferred filtering direction is oblique, the pixel values p and p' are supplied to an averager 27. The output of the median filter 25 and an output of the averager 27 are supplied to respective inputs of a switch 29. The switch 29 is controlled by the contour direction determiner 23 to supply the median filter output signal if the preferred filtering direction is vertical, and to supply the averager output signal if the preferred filtering direction is oblique, i.e. e.g. along a—a' or c—c'.

The man skilled in the art will appreciate that, as described in EP-A 0 361 558, the switch 29 may be a mixer performing a soft switch.

The apparatus shown in FIG. 2 can be used in a picture signal processing circuit constituting an interlaced-to-progressive scanning conversion circuit when, as shown in FIG. 3A, the output of the switch 29 is connected to a first input of a line compression-and-multiplex circuit 31, a second input of which is connected to receive the pixel value b'. The line compression-and-multiplex circuit 31 compresses the line periods of the picture signals applied to the inputs thereof with a factor 2 and then supplies, line-alternately, a picture signal supplied by the switch 29 and thereafter compressed, or a compressed input picture signal. A progressively scanned picture signal is then available at an

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output of the line compression-and-multiplex circuit 31, which result is denoted by 625/1:1/50, wherein 625 indicates the number of lines per picture, 1:1 stands for non-interlaced or progressive scan, and 50 indicates the number of fields. Such a line compression-and-multiplex circuit 31 is known per se and may, for example, be in the form of the cascade arrangement of the elements 223 and 244 in FIG. 3 of U.S. Pat. No. 4,740,842.

in FIG. 3A of the present Application only the multiplex action of the line compression-and-multiplex circuit 31 is symbolized.

The interpolation filter may alternatively be used in a picture signal processing circuit forming a line number doubling circuit which preserves interlace. To that end; as shown in FIG. 3B, the output of the switch 29 is connected to a first input of a first position-interpolation circuit designed as a mixer circuit 33, to a second input of which the signal from the picture element p' is applied, and to a first input of a second position-interpolation circuit designed as a mixer circuit 35, to a second input of which the signal from the picture element p is applied. Since the signals of the picture elements p' and p are applied to the second inputs of the respective mixer circuits 33 and 35, also the mixing operations performed by these mixer circuits 33 and 35 are contour dependent. Control inputs of the mixer circuits 33 and 35, receive a weighting factor k the value of which, for an appropriate relative positioning of the lines of the output signal, is equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  during the first field of each picture and equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  during the second field of each picture. Outputs of the mixer circuits 33 and 35 are connected to respective inputs of a line compression-and-multiplex circuit 37, from an output of which the interlaced output signal can be taken with double the number of lines. This output signal is indicated by 1250/2:1/50. For simplicity reasons, again only the multiplex action of block 37 is symbolized in FIG. 3B.

In FIG. 4 the operation of the interlaced-to-progressive scanning conversion circuit of FIG. 3A and of the line number doubling circuit of FIG. 3B which preserves interlace is illustrated in greater detail. In a left-hand column I broken lines indicate lines of a first interlaced input field and in a left-hand centre column II solid lines indicate lines of a second input field, the lines of the first and second input fields together forming an interlaced 625/2:1/50 input picture signal. In the left-hand centre column III the lines of the output signal X at the output of the switch 29 are represented by dotted lines. If the lines of the second field and the lines of the output signal X are combined by the line compression-and-multiplex circuit 31 as is shown in the left-hand centre column, a picture signal is obtained with a non-interlaced or progressive scanning, denoted 1:1, so that the 625/1:1/50 picture signal is formed.

In a right-hand centre column I' bold broken lines indicate lines of a first output field of the line number doubling circuit of FIG. 3B. The lines of the first and second output fields in the columns I' and II' form together the interlaced 1250/2:1/50 picture signal with double the number of lines. As is indicated by means of arrows, the interlace denoted by 2:1, is obtained in that the weighting factor k of FIG. 1 applied to the control inputs of the respective mixer circuits 33 and 35 changes its value from field to field ( $k = \frac{1}{2}$  or  $k = \frac{1}{2}$ ).

After having read this description, a person skilled in the art will be able to design numerous variations. All these variations are considered to be part of the field of the invention. For example, the output signal of the

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switch 29 can be used for forming an image signal having twice the field number of the input signal.

We claim:

1. A method of processing a line and field sequentially assembled picture signal, comprising the steps of:  
performing a motion compensated interpolation to obtain an additional line between two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field;  
vertically filtering said additional line using at least one of said adjacent lines of said given field, wherein said vertically filtering step includes determining a median of signals from said additional line and from two lines adjacent to said additional line; determining a direction of a contour in a picture of said picture signal to obtain a preferred filtering direction;  
obtaining an average of two pixel values on said two adjacent lines in the direction of the contour; and supplying said median if said preferred filtering direction is vertical, and supplying said average otherwise.
2. A method of processing a line and field sequentially assembled picture signal, comprising the steps of:  
performing a motion compensated interpolation to obtain an additional line between two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field;  
vertically filtering said additional line using at least one of said adjacent lines of said given field, wherein said additional line and said adjacent lines of said given field are multiplexed to form a non-interlaced picture signal.
3. A method of processing a line and field sequentially assembled picture signal, comprising the steps of:  
performing a motion compensated interpolation to obtain an additional line between two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field;  
vertically filtering said additional lines using at least one of said adjacent lines of said given field, wherein said additional line and said adjacent lines of said given field are processed to form a field of an interlaced picture signal having a doubled line number.
4. Apparatus for processing a line and field sequentially assembled picture signal, comprising:  
means for performing a motion compensated interpolation to obtain an additional line between two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field; and  
means for vertically filtering said additional line using at least one of said adjacent lines of said given field; wherein said vertically filtering means further include:  
means for determining a median of signals from said additional line and from two lines adjacent to said additional line;  
means for determining a direction of a contour in a picture of said picture signal to obtain a preferred filtering direction;  
means for obtaining an average of two pixel values on said two adjacent lines in the direction of said contour; and  
means for supplying said median if said preferred filtering direction is vertical, and supplying said average otherwise.

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5. Apparatus for processing a line and field sequentially assembled picture signal, comprising:  
means for performing a motion compensated interpolation to obtain an additional line between two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field; and  
means for vertically filtering said additional line using at least one of said adjacent lines of said given field; wherein said vertically filtering means include  
means for multiplexing said additional line and said adjacent lines of said given field to form a field of an interlaced picture signal having a doubled line number.

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6. Apparatus for processing a line and field sequentially assembled picture signal, comprising:  
means for performing a motion compensated interpolation to obtain an additional line between two adjacent lines of a given field from picture information of at least one neighboring field; and  
means for vertically filtering said additional line using at least one of said adjacent lines of said given field; wherein said vertically filtering means include  
means for processing said additional line and said adjacent lines of said given field to form a non-interlaced picture signal.  
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